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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/970,994

10/05/2001

Joong- Hyun Mun

06192.0204.NPUS00

3599

7590

12/14/2005

McGuire Woods LLP
1750 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102

EXAMINER

DI GRAZIO, JEANNE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/970,994

Applicant(s)

MUN ET AL

Examiner

Jeanne A. Di Grazio

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 2-6 have previously been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 7 and 8 have previously been indicated as allowable. Claims 9-16 have previously been withdrawn.

Claims 1 has been amended per Preliminary Amendment dated September 14, 2005.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 14, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 6,473,142 B2 (to Kim et al.) in view of United States Patent 6,573,965 B1 (to Liu et al.).

As to claim 1 (amended), Kim teaches and discloses a multi-domain liquid crystal display device. Kim teaches and shows, with reference to conventional art Figure 1, a pixel unit of a conventional LCD. Figure 1 teaches and discloses first and second substrates opposing each other (the substrates are not numbered), a pixel electrode (13) formed on the first substrate and having openings (Applicant's "a first aperture pattern"), a common electrode (17) formed on the second substrate and having open areas (Applicant's "a second aperture pattern") and a spacer (51) that is provided between the first and second substrates for maintaining a predetermined gap

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between the first and second substrates. Figure 1 also includes liquid crystal material (not numbered) between the first and second substrates.

It can be seen in Figure 1, that the spacer is located within the open areas of the common electrode.

Kim also teaches that an electric field inducing window (referring to Figures 4B, 5F and 5G) is formed on at least one substrate (Column 4, Lines 39-40). That is, the electric field inducing window is formed in the pixel or the common electrode or both pixel and common electrodes.

As can be seen in Figure 5G, the electric field inducing window in the common electrode (17) has a substantially straight portion. The pixel electrode (13) also has an electric field inducing window (43). The common (17) and pixel electrode (13) oppose each other as can be seen in the figure. Thus, the electric field inducing window of the common electrode (17) with the substantially straight portion is arranged substantially in parallel with the pixel electrode electric field inducing window (43). Please note that 'substantially' means neither exactly nor entirely. Substantially parallel means not exactly (or not entirely) parallel. The windows may thus be offset from each other.

Kim Figure 1 does not appear to explicitly specify or illustrate the spacer disposed at an end portion of the open area(s) and as currently claimed by Applicant.

Liu teaches and discloses a multi-domain wide viewing angle liquid crystal display having slits on pixel and common electrodes and dielectric bumps above the slits as can be seen in Figure 5 of Liu.

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Liu teaches that this structure decreases color dispersion of the LCD, increases response speed and reduces the generation of disclination lines.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify Kim in view of Liu to optimize pixel and common electrode structure and the positioning of a spacer (dielectric) to reduce or prevent disclination as a results effective variable. MPEP 2144.05.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2-6 have previously been allowed per Office Action of June 19, 2003.

As to claims 2-6, relevant prior art of record did not disclose, alone or in combination, Applicant's recited geometries of the pixel electrodes as claimed.

Claims 7 and 8 are allowed.

Claims 7 and 8 have previously been allowed per Office Action of June 19, 2003.

As to claims 7 and 8, relevant prior art of record did not disclose, alone or in combination, the specified apertures and branch geometries of the pixel and common electrodes as recited by Applicant. Relevant art, United States Patent (US 6,567,144 B1) discloses saw-

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toothed shaped protrusions on pixel and common electrodes; however, Applicant's recited elements do not appear to be disclosed by said reference.

It is further noted that, said reference is disqualified as commonly owned by assignee Samsung Electronics, Inc.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

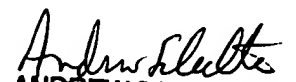
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeanne A. Di Grazio whose telephone number is (571)272-2289. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim, can be reached on (571)272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jeanne Andrea Di Grazio
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2871

JDG


ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER